

## § 12.95

an electronic product in violation of the Act (42 U.S.C. 263f, 263h).

[T.D. 83-235, 48 FR 52436, Nov. 18, 1983, as amended by T.D. 84-213, 49 FR 41168, Oct. 19, 1984]

### SWITCHBLADE KNIVES

#### § 12.95 Definitions.

Terms as used in §§12.96 through 12.103 of this part are defined as follows:

(a) *Switchblade knife*. “Switchblade knife” means any imported knife, or components thereof, or any class of imported knife, including “switchblade”, “Balisong”, “butterfly”, “gravity” or “ballistic” knives, which has one or more of the following characteristics or identities:

(1) A blade which opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button or device in the handle of the knife, or any knife with a blade which opens automatically by operation of inertia, gravity, or both;

(2) Knives which, by insignificant preliminary preparation, as described in paragraph (b) of this section, can be altered or converted so as to open automatically by hand pressure applied to a button or device in the handle of the knife or by operation of inertia, gravity, or both;

(3) Unassembled knife kits or knife handles without blades which, when fully assembled with added blades, springs, or other parts, are knives which open automatically by hand pressure applied to a button or device in the handle of the knife or by operation of inertia, gravity, or both; or

(4) Knives with a detachable blade that is propelled by a spring-operated mechanism, and components thereof.

(b) *Insignificant preliminary preparation*. “Insignificant preliminary preparation” means preparation with the use of ordinarily available tools, instruments, devices, and materials by one having no special manual training or skill for the purpose of modifying blade heels, relieving binding parts, altering spring restraints, or making similar minor alterations which can be accomplished in a relatively short period of time.

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(c) *Utilitarian use*. “Utilitarian use” includes but is not necessarily limited to use:

(1) For a customary household purpose;

(2) For usual personal convenience, including grooming;

(3) In the practice of a profession, trade, or commercial or employment activity;

(4) In the performance of a craft or hobby;

(5) In the course of such outdoor pursuits as hunting and fishing; and

(6) In scouting activities.

[T.D. 71-243, 36 FR 18859, Sept. 23, 1971, as amended by T.D. 90-50, 55 FR 28192, July 10, 1990]

#### § 12.96 Imports unrestricted under the Act.

(a) *Common and special purpose knives*. Imported knives with a blade style designed for a primary utilitarian use, as defined in §12.95(c), shall be admitted to unrestricted entry provided that in condition as entered the imported knife is not a switchblade knife as defined in §12.95(a)(1). Among admissible common and special purpose knives are jackknives and similar standard pocketknives, special purpose knives, scout knives, and other knives equipped with one or more blades of such single edge nonweapon styles as clip, skinner, pruner, sheep foot, spey, coping, razor, pen, and cuticle.

(b) *Weapons with fixed blades*. Importations of certain articles having a fixed unexposed or exposed blade are not within the prohibition of 15 U.S.C. 1241 through 1245. However, upon release by Customs, possession of these admissible articles which include such weapons as sword canes, camel whips, swords, sheath knives, machetes and similar devices that may be capable of use as weapons may be in violation of State or municipal laws.

[T.D. 71-243, 36 FR 18860, Sept. 23, 1971, as amended by T.D. 90-50, 55 FR 28192, July 10, 1990]

#### § 12.97 Importations contrary to law.

Importations of switchblade knives, except as permitted by 15 U.S.C. 1244, are importations contrary to law and

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are subject to forfeiture under 19 U.S.C. 1595a(c).

[T.D. 90-50, 55 FR 28192, July 10, 1990]

### § 12.98 Importations permitted by statutory exceptions.

The importation of switchblade knives is permitted by 15 U.S.C. 1244, when:

(a) Imported pursuant to contract with a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(b) Imported by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States or any member or employee thereof acting in the performance of his duty; or

(c) A switchblade knife, other than a ballistic knife, having a blade not exceeding 3 inches in length is in the possession of and is being transported on the person of an individual who has only one arm.

[T.D. 71-243, 36 FR 18860, Sept. 23, 1971, as amended by T.D. 90-50, 55 FR 28192, July 10, 1990]

### § 12.99 Procedures for permitted entry.

(a) *Declaration required.* The entry of switchblade knives, the importation of which is permitted under § 12.98 shall be accompanied by a declaration, in duplicate, of the importer or consignee stating the facts of the import transaction as follows:

(1) *Importation pursuant to Armed Forces contract.* (i) The names of the contracting Armed Forces branch and its supplier;

(ii) The specific contract relied upon identified by its date, number, or other contract designation; and

(iii) A description of the kind or type of knife imported, the quantity entered, and the aggregate entered value of the importation.

(2) *Importation by a branch, member, or employee of the Armed Forces.* (i) The name of the Armed Forces branch by or for the account of which entry is made or the branch of the importing member or employee acting in performance of duty; and

(ii) The description, quantity, and aggregate entered value of the importation.

(3) *Importation by a one-armed person.* A statement that the knife has a blade not exceeding 3 inches in length and is possessed by and transported on the de-

clarant's person solely for his necessary personal convenience, accommodation, and use as a one-armed individual.

(b) *Attachments to declaration.* Details for purposes of a declaration required under paragraph (a) of this section may be furnished by reference in the declaration to attachment of the original or copy of the contract or other documentation which contains the information.

(c) *Execution of declaration.* Declarations required by paragraph (a) of this section shall be executed as follows:

(1) *Contract supplier; Armed Forces branch; member or employee.* Declarations made under paragraph (a) or (b) of § 12.98 shall affirm that facts and data furnished are declared on knowledge, information, or belief of a signing officer, partner, or authorized representative of an importing contract supplier or of a commissioned officer, contracting officer, or employee authorized to represent an Armed Forces importing branch. The signature to a declaration shall appear over the declarant's printed or typewritten name, his title or rank, and the identity of the contract supplier or Armed Forces branch he represents or in which he has membership or employment.

(2) *One-armed person.* Declarations made under paragraph (c) of § 12.98, signed by the eligible person, shall be presented upon his arrival directly to a Customs officer who shall visually confirm the facts declared. An eligible knife shall be released only to the declarant.

(d) *Verification of declared information.* The importer, consignee, or declarant of knives permitted entry under § 12.98 upon request shall furnish Customs additional documentary evidence from an Armed Forces branch or other relevant source as Customs officers may require in order to:

(1) Verify declared statements;

(2) Resolve differences pertaining to quantity, description, value, or other discrepancy disclosed by the importation, entry, or related documentation;

(3) Establish the declarant's authority to act; or

(4) Authenticate a signature.

[T.D. 71-243, 36 FR 18860, Sept. 23, 1971]